

NIFC NATIONAL FIRE AND AVIATION TRAINING SUPPORT GROUP

ISSUE PAPER FOR THE NWCG TRAINING WORKING TEAM
MAY 4, 1995

--ADVANCED FIREFIGHTER/SQUAD BOSS TRAINING--

BACKGROUND:

The following statement appeared in the "Task Force Report, South Canyon Fire IRMT, Recommendations B-2, B-3" submitted by Jim Stumpf:

A review of the Task Book for FFTI/Squad Boss has disclosed a weakness in the experience necessary for the Squad Boss' first level supervision role. We suggest the addition of Task Book skills and a stand-alone training package that emphasizes basic tactics and strategies. We feel that a course needs to be developed for the FFTI that includes tactics and safety. The Task Book also needs to be modified to show additional skills for Squad Boss accomplishment.

STATUS:

No action has been taken to formally approve this recommendation and assign development responsibility.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the Training and ICS Working Teams review and formally approve or disapprove this proposal.

If approved, the resulting training package should be designated as Advanced Firefighter Training S-131 and should be required training for qualification in the position of FFTI. Training development should be assigned to the NIFC National Fire and Aviation Training Support Group as part of the suppression curriculum. If a high priority, development could begin as early as FY 96. If we are allowed some flexibility in scheduling, it may be possible to complete development without affecting other scheduled projects. A project plan will need to be developed and additional budget (Est. \$20,000 over two years) and SMEs will need to be provided.

NIFC NATIONAL FIRE AND AVIATION TRAINING SUPPORT GROUP

ISSUE PAPER FOR THE NWCG TRAINING WORKING TEAM
JULY 11, 1995

--TACTICS AND TERMINOLOGY IN ENGINE BOSS S-231--

BACKGROUND:

The following statement appeared in the "Task Force Report, South Canyon Fire IMRT, Recommendations B-2, B-3" submitted by Jim Stumpf:

S-231, Engine Boss

1. Unit 2, Section II, 5c. We question the use of the term "envelopment" in tactics for engines. None of our group had heard of the term, and the technique described appeared not to be well tied with the use of anchor points for the attack. (See attachment 1)

STATUS:

The definition used to describe the tactic envelopment, has been changed to better reflect the use of anchor points with the attack. Trainees are required to illustrate the deployment of their resources utilizing this method in an exercise included in the instruction material. (See attachment 2)

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the NWCG Training Working Team approve the use of the term in the Engine Boss, S-231 course curriculum for the following reasons:

Although the term is not widely use among all fire suppression agencies, it is used among those agencies/areas that are heavily involved in Wildland/Urban Interface fire suppression activities to describe this tactic.

The term was recommended by all three SME's on the development group representing three different geographic areas of the country. (See attachment 3)

5. Course development cadre are planning to use the lessons learned from the South Canyon Fire in an exercise in the course. This exercise will be in addition to exercises already in the course on the Loop and Mann Gulch fires.

6. The design for the course needs to be representative of the small 7- to 10-person crew, and not the standard 20-person crew. Most Crew Boss activity and crew use represent these smaller personnel pools used on local fires for initial action, not the major fire activity.

Due to the relationship of the S-230 Crew Boss course to other Single Resource Boss courses, we elected to review those as well for content and consistency. Most of these courses are in varying stages of draft, but we were able to offer the Development people some comment. Following are suggested modifications to these courses:

S-231, Engine Boss

1. Unit 2, Section II, 5c. We question the use of the term "envelopment" in tactics for engines. None of our group had heard of the term, and the technique described appeared not to be well tied with the use of anchor points for the attack. Item 5d lists Parallel attack as indirect attack. We feel that to remain consistent with the glossary in the Fire Line Handbook, this should be considered as the third method of attack with indirect and direct.

2. Unit 2, Section II, 4e. Lookouts are listed in the disadvantages of indirect attack. We feel this provides a negative connotation to the importance of using a lookout during fire suppression. We suggest the use of lookouts is good and essential business during all fire suppression operations.

3. Unit 2, Section III B. We suggest fire fighter safety be listed as the first, not fifth consideration in the factors that affect the triage for urban interface protection. We also suggest that an item 6 be added to this section. This should say, "Determine egress and potential to have this egress blocked in your size-up."

4. Unit 3, Section II, A3. Incident objectives are not established for the operational period. These are set by the I.C. for the incident. Tactical assignments are determined by the Operations Section Chief, who also establishes the time frames for completion of assigned tasks.

5. Unit 3, Section II A7. The Transportation Plan does not inform operations personnel of (a) who goes where, and (b) by what mode of transportation.

OUTLINE (CONTINUATION)	AIDS & CUES
<p>5. Situations where mobile attack with engines should not be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Firefighter safety is jeopardized. b. Poor fireline access. c. Terrain is too rough to travel. d. Long turn around times to water. e. Frontal attacks with fast flame spread. f. Attacks on long flame lengths. g. Fuels too dense to negotiate. <p>6. Direct attack tactics include:</p>	
<p>BRIEFLY DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING TACTICS (PINCER, TANDEM, ENVELOPMENT, AND PARALLEL ATTACK). THEN ADMINISTER EXERCISE #2 TO REINFORCE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pincer - direct attack around a fire in opposite directions by two or more fire control resources. b. Tandem - direct attack along a part of the fire perimeter by control resources following each other (can leap frog). c. Envelopment - direct attack with multiple anchor points, that allows for multiple points of attack. Associated with wildland/urban interface fire suppression activities. 	

Attachment 2

OUTLINE (CONTINUATION)	AIDS & CUES
<div data-bbox="565 237 829 275" data-label="Section-Header"> <h2 style="text-align: center;">EXERCISE #2</h2> </div>	
<p>DIVIDE THE TRAINEES INTO FOUR GROUPS. ASSIGN EACH GROUP ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TACTICS:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PINCER • TANDEM • ENVELOPMENT • PARALLEL ATTACK 	
<p>HAVE EACH GROUP DRAW A HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIO ON A FLIPCHART DISPLAYING HOW THEY WOULD DEPLOY ENGINE RESOURCES FOR THEIR ASSIGNED TACTIC.</p>	<p>Flipcharts/Pens</p>
<p>ALLOW TEN MINUTES FOR TRAINEES TO PREPARE.</p>	
<p>EACH GROUP WILL THEN PRESENT THEIR INFORMATION. ALLOW FOR FEEDBACK AND DISCUSSION FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE TRAINEES.</p>	
<p>USE THE VIEWGRAPHS OR SLIDES AS NEEDED TO REINFORCE THE FOUR METHODS ABOVE.</p>	<p>02-14-S231-SL Thru 02-17-S231-SL or 02-09-S231-VG Thru 02-12-S231-VG</p>
<p>C. Indirect Attack</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uses existing roads, natural barriers, or constructed firelines ahead of the main fire for control line. 2. The lines ahead of the fire are either backfired out or held by ground and air resources. These lines become the final control lines. 	

ENGINE BOSS (Single Resource), S-231

PREFACE

This lesson plan has been developed by an interagency development group with guidance from the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), National Fire and Aviation Training Support Group under the authority of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). The development group is made up of representatives from the following agencies:

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Comments regarding this package or additional information should be addressed to:

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National Fire and Aviation Training Support Group
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Attachment 3

